

DISMAL

... that's Amersham's League Cup farewell

Amersham Town 6, Didcot 2
AMERSHAM gave one of their most dismal displays of the season when they were beaten 2-4 on Saturday by Didcot in the Hellenic League Challenge Cup at Spratley's Meadow.

Didcot were faster to the ball and showed more spirit and enthusiasm than the Magpies and were allowed to dictate play when really

being challenged by the lower team.

Play was very scrappy with little football being played by either side and Amersham's punting in particular was atrocious.

For Didcot, Marriott and Webb did sound work in defence and Webb, in particular, was the inspiration behind many of the visitors' attacks.

SO BAD

Even though Amersham were playing so badly it was Palethorpe who came nearest to scoring when he fired a tremendous shot which Jeffries finger-tipped round the post.

Minutes later Summerfield rolled a tremendous shot into the top left-hand corner of the net but again was followed by a spectacular save by Jeffries.

Didcot regained control and with 15 minutes of the second half remaining took the lead when Didmeade gained possession six yards from the Amersham goal, was allowed to turn, lose possession of the ball and regain it, and push the ball into the net while two Amersham defenders stood watching.

The opening of the second half saw Amersham continuing to play in a casual manner, allowing Didcot to play all the attacking football without ever looking dangerous. Play in the second half was of a scrappy nature with neither side playing much football.

After 20 minutes' play Ryder came on in place of Scrivener in an endeavour to put life into the Magpies' attack and the move nearly succeeded when he combined well with Nisbet and taking the return pass hit a great shot inches wide of the post.

Didcot, countered and only sterling work by Brookes and Bates kept the Magpies in the hunt. With 10 minutes remaining Didcot went further ahead when Webb, an industrious left-half, ran across the field of play to the right-wing position before putting the ball across the face of the goal to Didmeade who rolled home again from 16 yards.

This set-back breeded the Amersham team and they played their best football in the remaining 10 minutes but were followed by a hard-tackling Didcot defence in which Marriott was outstanding.

Amersham: Lettman; Austin, Allen; Hegarty, Brooks, Bates; Nisbet, Scrivener, Croome, Summerfield, Palethorpe. Subs: Ryder.

Didcot: Jeffries, Cooper, Haynes; Marriott, Marks, Webb; Goodenough, Buckett, Prior, Didmeade, Jackboon. Subs: Crocker.



Weakstone goalkeeper Andy Williams rises to clear a corner.

Stuart Thompson back to help Wycombe win

Working Reserves 8, Wycombe Wanderers Reserves 3

STUART THOMPSON made a welcome return, after injury, to the Wycombe Reserve side at Woking on Saturday. He helped in consolidating the defence and was constantly prompting the forwards.

It took the reserves quite a while to settle into any pattern and early play was marred by some inaccurate passing, especially from defence, and by the forwards frequently being caught offside by an alert Woking defence.

However, after Thompson had hit the upright with a splendid left-foot shot from 18 yards, Wycombe took the lead. A long kick from 'keeper Pratt was controlled and quickly pushed through a wide and square defence by Thompson for Mike Kelly, running in well from the wing, to collect. As the Woking 'keeper hesitated for a moment Kelly neatly dotted the ball into the corner of the net.

In the second half the small and quick Woking forwards were frustrated by a strong Wycombe defence in which Colin Reid made some good interceptions and clearances. It was after some Woking pressure that the Wanderers managed to break quickly from defence and instigate their lead. Steve Freeman, who had been moving well in the front line, quickly slipped the ball to Viv Busby who hit the ball hard and low through the legs of the onrushing goalkeeper.

This made amends for his earlier miss in a similar situation. Wycombe now continued to press home their advantage and completed their scoring with an excellent glancing header by Freeman from a Lane corner.



AL place in Round 2? A quick Cup exit? What awaits as...

WANDERERS HIT THE TRAIL TO WEMBLEY

WYCOMBE WANDERERS' journey to Oxford City on Saturday takes a new importance following the demise of their Isthmian League aspirations.

For the Amateur Cup is the last possible major title still available to the Lookers Park club this season. A quick exit would leave nothing but a tilt at the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup to drive them from the Christmas holiday programme to the end of the term.

Manager Barry Darvill has "special cup-de training" prepared for his squad of 12, from which he picked the team to play City on Monday night (see Stop Press, page 1).

Darvill, who spent three years on the playing staff at the White House, before joining Wycombe as team boss almost five seasons ago, is thus no stranger to Oxford.

"They are a useful side, playing well at the moment. There won't be much in it, but I'm confident that we will win," he said soon after the Weakstone game on Saturday.

His optimism however is not quite the general forecast on how the game will turn out. Many anticipate that Wanderers will not survive to be involved in the second round draw; others will go no further than predicting a Wycombe win via a mid-week replay.

In company with Darvill, Saturday will see a return to old haunts for both centre-half Ronnie Rundle and goalkeeper John Maskell, who, with the Wycombe attack so suspect, will need to play a major part in

any victory plans. Good news is that Tony Horsman, whether returned at centre forward or not, will be fit for the match.

... but City will be favourites

IF NOT quite odds-on, Oxford City must be considered clear favourites — despite their shock five-goal home defeat dished out by Sid Cann's men from Sutton United, last Saturday.

In England's International goalkeeper, John Shippey, they hold perhaps the key to the whole match. For, as Weakstone's Andy Williams proved over the week-end, Wycombe's attack need command little easier from a solid defence while Vince Faulkner continues to lose his way in the 18-yard box.

In Tony Horsman and Lex Merrick, Shippey has greater problems, but there is an element of the unpredictable about Wycombe, and Shippey must take them as he finds them.

At the other end of the field, a probable threat to Wycombe will come from inside-left Tony

Bradbury, who after spending several weeks at Lookers Park during the pre-season training period, decided to stay at the City books.

A likely inclusion in the Oxford defence is George Pullin, a familiar figure to Lookers Park patrons who will remember him as a former Wanderers' stalwart.

The Oxford line-up has remained unchanged for their last three outings, with: Shippey; Ramsden, Pullin; Penicott, Shuffelbottom, Metcalfe, Hellyer, Morton, Oram, Bradbury, and Woodley.

Last season, Oxford's quiet but steady run in the Amateur Cup was terminated in a replay with Chesham United, when they became just one of four of the "giant killers" four Isthmian victims.



Extra



John Maskell (left) and Ian Rundle will both be returning to their former haunt.

GEDDES WALKS OUT

Risboro' goalkeeper quits club at half-time. Meeting is called

Princes Risborough Town 1, Thatcham 7

IN A sensational incident during the half-time interval at Windsor Playing Fields on Saturday, Princes Risborough Town's goalkeeper, George Geddes, walked out on his team, telling manager Jim Treutt he would not continue.

After changing and showering, Geddes made a quick exit from the ground. This dramatic turn of events followed a first period in which struggling Risborough had conceded four times to Thatcham's attack.

The Risborough club committee held a meeting on Monday night to discuss the sorry position the club finds itself in, both financially and result-wise. Said secretary, Alan Vickers, after Saturday's events: "No doubt the Geddes incident will be discussed in full, and appropriate action will be taken."

It was all just one more loss on a day when the defence was ripped open seven times, in a humiliating home defeat. Coming so soon after the crushing failure against Slough, the defeat left Risborough a shaken club.

Confusing

The first half was a confusing affair. Risborough, having the edge on clear cut chances, were, as well as anyone taking them, left the visiting forwards took all that were offered them.

Young Michael Anderson, drafted into the team for his first game in the Senior side, did as well as anyone but Brian Peet, playing in the unfamiliar centre half position never looked really at home and Maggs, the dangerous and pro-

lific-scoring visiting centre forward held the upper hand on quite a few occasions.

Risborough didn't seem to want the ball as the Thatcham players did and consequently looked pedestrian in comparison. Yet they still created these chances.

Explosive

After the explosive interval when Risborough were 4-2 down, Steve McCrone took Geddes' place in goal and Alec Bennett came out as sub, to moving up into the forward line.

For 10 minutes or so Risborough appeared to have lots more spirit, but gradually the visitors asserted their superiority on the game. They added two more before Mike Rockell, who had worked like a beaver got his just reward when he hooked home a good goal following a move coming from the right.

The Thatcham side however were always looking for goals and playing with great confidence as a side can do when five goals up really hammered the Risborough defence.

Steve McCrone did as well as could be expected in goal but he couldn't really be blamed when he dolly shot his mud and splattered through his legs to

complete Risborough's misery. Risborough Town: G. Geddes, A. Vickers, M. Anderson; A. Battista, B. Peet, I. Morris; S. McCrone, M. Rockell, A. Crabtree, R. Herbert, J. Rogers. Sub.: A. Bennett.

Kidlington Res. 3, Princes Risborough Town Res. 1

Risborough's second string, with a much changed team owing to unavailability, went down in the mud at Kidlington. Giving away a couple of silly goals in the first quarter of an hour was, they found, too big a start to give a side, and although they had the edge for the rest of the game they could only penetrate the home defence once. Sid Bird, who had moved



GEORGE GEDDES walked out

up from his defensive station to one in the attack, scored. The home side then scored to clinch the game.

Risborough Town Res: J. Welch, J. Bailey, T. Derrick, D. Carter, S. Bird, R. Caterer; D. Hazell, D. Benven, P. Clay, D. Brown, R. Graves.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C.

Saturday, December 14th
RESERVES v ENFIELD RESERVES
Lookers Park — 3 p.m.

F.A. Amateur Cup 1st Round
1st XI v OXFORD CITY
White Horse Ground, Oxford — 3 p.m.

Chalfont recover after starting with only nine men

Crown and Manor 1, Chalfont St. Peter 3

IN SPITE of starting with the disadvantage of having only nine men, Frank Howard and Brian Bennett were delayed and late starters—and, probably as a result of that, were a goal down in the first five minutes, Chalfont St. Peter quickly recovered and took the initiative at Cheshunt on Saturday.

Derek Clark wore Frank Howard's jersey for the first 10 minutes and in spite of some sturdy work in that unaccustomed position was unable to stop Crown and Manor's danger-man Lamb from scoring in the fifth minute from a centre by Montague. To signs of relief from the Chalfont supporters, Howard and Bennett came on five minutes later and the strain for the nine men was lifted.

well with Bill Cox and with cool-thinking Barry Walsh well contained the home team attack while Stuart Hammond stuck to fast winger Lamb like a leech.

Tracks

In the 20th minute Bennett stopped Dunn in his tracks, after he had received a well-placed ball from Lee. In the 25th minute Bob Shepherd slipped past Lee and found Tommy Chapman with a good long pass and goalkeeper Brown did well to stop Chapman's sharply

Newcomers

... Bill Cox and

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